



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022

No. 11

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DINGELL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 18, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE DINGELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

ENSURING A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, just a few days before Christmas, on December 21, President Joe Biden issued a Presidential determination with little fanfare under the Defense Production Act of 1950.

The Defense Production Act of 1950 is a Korean war-era law that allows the government to accelerate production of

critical materials and technology. It is the same law that Presidents Trump and Biden used to stimulate production of COVID-related ventilators and PPE during the pandemic.

In his memorandum to the Secretary of Defense, Biden noted that: "Ensuring a robust, resilient, and competitive domestic defense industrial base that has the . . . workforce to meet the Virginia-class submarine undersea warfighting mission is essential to our national security."

To accomplish that mission, the President invoked DPA authorities to expand the domestic production capability for "large-scale fabrication, shipbuilding industrial base expansion for resilience and robustness, and maritime workforce training pipelines."

As chair of the House Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, which oversees the Virginia-class program, I strongly support the President's decision because it is based on both strategic national defense considerations and industrial base demand.

Indeed, just a few days after Christmas, the President signed into law the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, which contained provisions my subcommittee authored that are completely aligned with the President's DPA order.

Specifically, the new 2022 NDAA added funding for new facility construction for submarine production, as well as a boost for workforce training and supply chain development. All of these provisions were plus-ups from the Navy's initial budget request last February and based on our own analysis of strained shipyard capacity.

The more consequential issue contained in the DPA, I believe, is its finding that the Virginia program "is essential to our national security." That finding is a blaring signal to the Congress and the entire country that we need to bolster our undersea deterrent capability to counter aggressive, coer-

cive actions in the maritime domain—specifically, the behavior of both the Chinese and Russian navies that has been overwhelmingly repudiated by the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention, the former in the South China Sea in 2016 and the latter in the Black Sea in 2019.

In both cases, despite the International Court's scathing rejection of both countries' intrusions on protected waters, there is no sign that lawlessness has abated. China's encroachment on territorial waters in the Philippines and Vietnam continues, as does its illegal island building and militarization of artificial landmasses that the court condemned. In the Black Sea and the North Atlantic, Russian claims to sea control and its seizure of Ukrainian naval ships are blatantly in violation of the international rule of law.

Madam Speaker, today, China has the world's largest navy, and Putin is aggressively increasing the size of his submarine fleet.

For the U.S. Navy, what is particularly concerning is the development of sophisticated missile technology by both countries that increases the vulnerability of our surface fleet that has been working in conjunction with allies like France, Japan, and Australia to reassert post-World War II principles of freedom of navigation visibly and peacefully. The joint sea patrols in the international waters of the Indo-Pacific and Black Sea are a reassertion of principles that, since the end of World War II, have successfully reduced the risk of conflict while enhancing trade and prosperity.

To counter ongoing threats to rule of law, the Biden administration has been diplomatically reconnecting, all throughout 2021, with U.S. allies in both regions, as well as reevaluating the highest and best use of limited defense spending. The DPA issued on December 21 is a logical extension of that process. Given the new challenge posed

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H199

by missile technology to our surface ships, stepping up production of the *Virginia*-class program makes perfect sense since those submarines are not at risk from even the most sophisticated airborne missiles, and the Chinese and Russian navies know that.

Madam Speaker, in addition, last September, the new AUKUS security alliance between the U.S., Australia, and the U.K., whose centerpiece is the sharing of nuclear propulsion technology for a new class of Australian submarines, is another powerful, tangible statement about the importance of strengthening our joint allied undersea capability.

As David Ignatius, a longtime observer of U.S. foreign policy, recently wrote in *The Washington Post*: “The AUKUS alliance with Australia and Britain to build nuclear submarines and share other military technology might be the most important strategic move” by the U.S. “in decades.”

The Biden DPA order last month and the AUKUS agreement last September are a powerful, tangible signal by the U.S. to our allies and friends who support a collaborative action to uphold international rule of law, which is critical to maintaining a peaceful coexistence among the world’s nations.

COMBATING CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am an avid outdoorsman. In November and December, if I have time, I tend to spend it out in the woods, deer hunting. This is a popular passion among many Pennsylvanians as well as Americans across our great country. Nothing beats those early mornings heading out to the woods in hopes you will return successful.

But our deer are currently threatened by chronic wasting disease. This is a contagious, neurological disease affecting deer, elk, and moose that is always fatal. CWD has been detected in 25 States and was first discovered in Pennsylvania deer nearly 10 years ago.

Working across the aisle, my colleagues and I introduced H.R. 5608, the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act, which unanimously passed out of the House Agriculture Committee.

By working closely with stakeholders, we developed a bill to take us one step closer to better understanding the genetic implications of the disease and developing policies best suited to solve the problem.

Specifically, this legislation authorizes \$70 million to split evenly between CWD management and research efforts through USDA cooperative agreements.

The research funds are authorized to be spent on testing and detecting CWD

in live cervids, noncervids, and the environment. Additionally, these funds are authorized for research of genetic resistance to chronic wasting disease, sustainable cervid harvest management practices, and any additional factors of local CWD emergence.

The management section authorizes funding for State or Tribal wildlife agencies and departments of agriculture based on various funding priorities, including the highest incidences of CWD, areas demonstrating greatest financial commitments to addressing CWD, efforts to develop CWD programs and policies, areas of greatest risk of being introduced to CWD, and areas responding to new outbreaks.

This bill also includes key education provisions in which USDA, State, and Tribal agencies are authorized to develop materials to inform the public on chronic wasting disease.

Last but certainly not least, H.R. 5608 directs USDA review of the herd certification program within 18 months.

Madam Speaker, we need all hands on deck to help combat this disease, maintain a healthy deer population, and protect our beloved elk range—certainly, our elk range in Pennsylvania, which is near and dear to me. It is imperative we better understand the transmission of, resistance to, and diagnosis of CWD.

I am really pleased that, in December, this House passed H.R. 5608 with strong bipartisan support, marking an important step in that direction. Today, we wait for the Senate to take up this time-sensitive bill. It is my belief our colleagues in the Senate recognize the urgency and the potential negative economic impacts of CWD if it continues to spread at this rate and work toward its passage.

REMEMBERING THE LATE SARAH TYREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Sarah Tyree, a passionate advocate who spent her career fighting for farmers, advocating for rural and urban agriculture, and working to end hunger.

Sarah dedicated herself to ending hunger and spent her life working on issues like promoting nutrition and reforming our food system to make eating locally grown foods more accessible to everyone.

After starting her career on Capitol Hill, Sarah worked for the Biotechnology Industry Organization and then the Missouri State Department of Agriculture, helping to establish the Missouri Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Sarah served as vice president of the agricultural consulting firm AgriLogic, and then spent the last 15 years of her career at the financial cooperative

CoBank here in Washington, D.C., where she most recently served as vice president for policy and public affairs.

Madam Speaker, the impact of Sarah’s commitment to agriculture and local farming cannot be understated. She established a partnership between CoBank and the D.C. Central Kitchen, which allowed for the kitchen to significantly expand their local purchasing power. Her efforts helped many farmers keep land that they may have otherwise lost due to the pandemic.

Sarah was a devoted member of the D.C. Central Kitchen board of directors for many years, and she served as chair of the board between 2013 and 2018. In this capacity, Sarah continued her amazing work to end hunger and played a major role in securing funding to establish D.C. Central Kitchen’s new location and expand its reach.

Sarah was unbelievably generous in her support of a cause that was dear to me, Monte Belmonte’s annual march across Western Massachusetts to end hunger and to help support the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. She poured her energy into supporting local and national efforts to end hunger while also empowering the next generation of leaders in combating hunger through her work as a board chairman of the Campus Kitchens Project.

Sarah never stopped imagining a bigger and brighter future. She believed in harnessing the power of community to make America the best that we can be, promoting nutrition, supporting local farmers, and fighting to end hunger along the way. Sarah approached her work and this life with an open heart and a genuine desire to do good. She cared about improving the lives of others in a touching and rare way and has left an immeasurable impact on this world.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, and all those whom Sarah’s light touched, it is my great privilege and honor to celebrate and recognize the wonderful life of the late Sarah Tyree.

I want to say that I think I speak for all of my colleagues in this Chamber when I extend our condolences to her husband and her family. I hope that they all get comfort out of the fact that Sarah made such a difference for so many in this country and around the world.

NEW FUNDING FOR SEPTA FROM INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, last Friday was a big day for infrastructure in the Philadelphia region.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg was in Philly to announce the first tranche of funding for bridges under the new law, including \$1.6 billion for Pennsylvania bridges.